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Subject: SOKOLOV Viktor - dancer of Moiseyev Dance Company

Source: *R. McCaskey/57*

*d.o.b. 1944 in Moscow*

Date: 24 June 1965

1. Subject is Russian, born 1944 in Moscow, member of Komsomol, married. His wife is a member of Komsomol, too, and stays "usually" in Moscow. Her father is a professor of history at Moscow University. Subject is already for 3 years with Moiseyev Company. He went to school in Moscow and studied at the Bolshoi Ballet School.

He seems to be a rather quiet, easy going character; smokes, and likes to drink. Likes to talk anti-regime jokes and jokes in general. Then becomes quite vulgar and cynical. His attitude to the regime could be described as skeptical and critical but not "aggressive" in its "anti".

Physical description : 5'4, 135 lbs, round face, brown hair, light complexion, athletic posture.

2. Subject stays quite often in company of KHODZOYAN Rudi and OGANOV Sergei, both - Armenian dancers with the Moiseyev Company; when meeting Source Subject usually lets his Armenian friends do the talking. His interjections are as a rule short, cynical, and affirmative one way or the other. During the meeting on 17 Jun 1965, when KHODZOYAN was evasive on whether the KGB was involved in espionage, Subject smiled at the Source and said quite firmly : "Khodzoyan is not telling the truth." Of course, the KGB does engage in espionage, like similar organization in any other country".

On the same occasion when KHODZOYAN mentioned that there were probably more Ukrainians in Canada and the USA than in the Ukraine itself, Subject called him crazy and told that he was talking nonsense.

Subject has a definite interest in political matters. He knows many prison songs; "heard" about student underground groups; can discuss intelligibly political matters. On 17 June 1965 he asked Source what he thought of China.

When Source replied that China looked to him as too militant an empire, Subject began to criticize Chinese for their irresponsible policy in Vietnam by demanding to escalate the Vietnamese war on the part of socialist block. In his <sup>opinion</sup> Chinese want war because they have nothing to lose by it. Their population is 600 million and if they lose 400 million they will be still well off. Asked about Chinese activities in the Soviet Union, Subject replied that tons of Chinese literature in Russian had been sent to the Soviet Union "in all possible ways" and <sup>some</sup> was still coming.

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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
HAZINAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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Source met Subject for the first time on 27 May 1965 after the performance at the stage entrance of the Metropolitan Opera in company of KHODZHOYAN and OGANOV. In the same company he also met Subject on 15 and 17 June 1965 and both times spent a few hours in a nearby restaurant and bar, respectively. As usual when in company Subject let the others talk and restricted himself to a few pointed remarks and comments. On 19 June 1965 Source met Subject alone and they went to a nightclub near Madison Square Garden. Subject became quite talkative, especially after a few drinks and "getting familiar with the atmosphere".

3. While at the nightclub Subject promised to send Source history books, local papers (Vechernaya Moskva), poetry books and poetry in general. His father-in-law has access to all latest historical publications and Subject will take advantage of that. He will also send songs of prisoners and others with anti-regime contents. He will do mailing from Moscow suburbs and not from Moscow itself in order to avoid trouble with the KGB. He took Source's address (N.B. with a fictitious name) but refused to give his own explaining that he did not want Source to write him. Subject would have to report to the KGB his giving the address to Source and this would mean trouble. They will ask him who the Source was how did he meet him, what for etc. According to Subject all members of the Dance Company are under "strict observation" not only while abroad but also at home and that's why he will send parcels to Source from outside of Moscow, making trips to suburbs.

On Source's suggestion he also agreed to notify Source about his whereabouts abroad. Source indicated to him that he might have some friends in some European or other cities, students like himself, and they might arrange for Subject sightseeing and fun just like they are doing now in New York.

When parting Subject also promised to send Soviet jokes and some general information on students and stylagi in the Soviet Union.

4. When discussing student affairs Subject told Source that there were underground student groups in the Soviet Union. When asked more about it he said he knew himself had no contacts with them but he had heard often about them, in Moscow.

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Their main "sin" against the Soviet regime was their "freethinking openly manifested at meetings and public gatherings". They also meet in private. Subject could not elaborate <sup>on</sup> ~~to~~ their political "program" but thought they simply wanted "more freedom in everything". The regime is fully aware of their existence and often uses harsh measures like sending <sup>most active</sup> ~~them~~ mostly individually to Siberia <sup>for</sup> ~~on~~ various economic projects. This practice continues all the time, though the regime tries to make as little noise about those "deportations" as possible.

5. Asked about his appraisal of the new Soviet leadership, Subject described KOSYGIN as definitely stronger leader than BREZHNEV. KOSYGIN is from Leningrad and has that party organization behind him. This is a very important factor. Also he is a good economist and a good manager. Not BREZHNEV but MIKOYAN is next to KOSYGIN. Although KHRUSHCHEV at one time demoted him he had now risen again and should be watched. BREZHNEV was described by Subject just as a good man, too but with no special qualifications. About PODGORNYY he only knew that such existed.

6. Subject told Source that he personally liked KHRUSHCHEV and was sorry to see him go. In his opinion KHRUSHCHEV was relieved of his post mainly because of his mistakes in agriculture. The experiment with corn was a real nonsense and everybody knew it. There were also other aspects of Khrushchev's agricultural policy. Thus when in 1963 there was a food crisis in the Soviet Union and they had to buy wheat from Canada, KHRUSHCHEV continued to deliver most of the wheat to Cuba. Subject seemed to be really angry at him for that and expressed his usual pretty strong vulgarities at Khrushchev's address.

7. The Food Crisis of 1963 was a very serious matter as Subject put it. There was normal white bread only in 3 cities of the Soviet Union: Moscow, Kiev, and Leningrad. In other cities there was only black bread, and very often there was simply none. Asked about reaction of the population Subject told Source that there were demonstrations in LVIV, KHARKIV and other cities.

On this occasion Subject told an Armenian joke, i.e. how did Armenian Radio answer the question of a listener how to get more food in his refrigerator. The answer was: to attach Soviet radio to the refrigerator. Subject commented that "in our country the radio always shoots the breeze that there is plenty to eat but actually there is never enough". Then added that he simply cannot comprehend <sup>but</sup> ~~that~~ in the Soviet Union there happen to be critical shortages of food.

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8. Subject highly praised "Radio Armenia" . He explained to Source that "it" was specializing in anti-Soviet jokes. He told him two jokes, about China and Soviet affluence. He also mentioned that when the Moyseyev Company was in Paris he saw a book entitled "Radio Armenia". This book was enjoyed by all members of the Company.

9. YEVTUSHENKO and ROZHDESTVENSKIY were described by Subject as most outstanding among young Russian poets. Subject had heard YEVTUSHENKO in a youth cafe in Moscow and was tremendously impressed by him. According to Subject all Moscow youth is for YEVTUSHENKO and other young poets and laugh at the regime's criticism . Subject was not familiar with Ukrainian young poets and writers but promised to look for their works in Moscow and send them together with the Russian ones.

10. According to Subject beards are getting very modern now in Moscow. <sup>Some</sup> young people started to wear beards and dress more modern than their colleagues. They are being called stylagi. But they were not the only ones who are beginning to grow beards. "It is becoming contagious".

11. Soviet press Subject described as boring, full of official politics. Very few people in Moscow read Pravda and Izvestiya. Most popular paper in Moscow is Vechernaya Moskva. It has articles on daily life and real news on young poets, divorces, accidents.

12. Referring to Source's eventual trip to the Soviet Union Subject pointed out that everyone coming to Moscow from abroad will be followed by the KGB wherever he would be going. All foreigners in the Soviet Union belong to a suspicious category. Local population is aware of that but nevertheless people use to approach foreigners in order to trade ties, jackets, shirts. "Our people like foreigners and foreign cloth".

13. Subject knows some Zhuliki songs and seems to have quite a strong interest in their life, customs etc. He told <sup>Source</sup> that their strongest organization existed nowadays in ODESSA, ROSTOV on Don, and MINSK. He described them as "those wise guys doing very wonderful and spirited things". He related a story about an Indian movie actor who came to the Soviet Union last year. In ROSTOV Zhuliki found out about him, stole his luggage , and wrote him a letter saying that he was a fool to visit the USSR.

14. Subject expressed a strong admiration for American standard of life and contrasted it with the Soviet one. On this occasion he mentioned

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an American defector to the Soviet Union who - as he put it - was a convinced socialist and a great admirer of the Soviet Union. When saying that Subject pointed to his head and made a sign to show that the defector must have been crazy.

15. Subject wanted to know whether it was true that NUREYEV had bought himself a villa on the Riviera for \$ 100,000. He mentioned that he heard about it many times, and that when NUREYEV had defected in England the Soviet Government brought even his mother to London to speak to her son and convince him to return. Subject asked also about MEDLIN; namely how was he doing in the States.

16. Asked about persecutions in the Soviet Union Subject replied that times had tremendously changed in comparison with Stalinist period "but there were still prisoners in Lubyanka". Subject knows some of present Lubyanka songs and promised Source to write them down. He added that prisoners had their own jargon and not everybody could understand their "technical expressions".

17. When discussing the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 Subject told Source that he knew about <sup>the</sup> anti-Russian character of the "upheaval." One of dancers of the Moyseyev Company happened to be at that time in Hungary together with the Soviet Army and "told us all about it". "The first thing the revolutioners did was to demand Russian to go home and the tearing down of Stalin-monument".

18. Subject agreed with Source that the Berlin Wall was a very bad reflection on communism but was not interested in the topic in particular. He also knew little about "Moscow Summer of 1964" by Mikhailov and only smiled when was told that the author had been arrested on intervention of the Soviet Government.

19. Subject told Source that he already had been approached by Russian emigrants and mentioned Posev as violently anti-Soviet. He personally preferred a Russian paper in Canada <sup>(?)</sup> "The Russian Word", it contained some good ideas. Subject was also to a party where he was offered a lot of Russian emigre literature.

20. Subject mentioned that there were in the Soviet Union some already made films or pictures of various towns and he will try to send some to Source.

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21. Subject was supposed to come to the party arranged by Source on 23 June 1965 but failed to appear. Instead they agreed to meet again on 24 June 1965 after the performance.

22. Referring to their being watched Subject mentioned that they had KGB inside the Dance Company and he might eventually show a KGBist to Source. He <sup>added</sup> ~~implied~~ that evrybody in the Company knew "who is who".

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